

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3, 7-10, and 15 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
- a cell phone having an antenna and a speaker;
 - an answering machine integrated with the cell phone; and
 - a nonvolatile memory region coupled to the answering machine to store an audio signal of an incoming call received via the antenna and answered by the answering machine, the cell phone including a codec to process the audio signal of the incoming call and the codec including
a demultiplexer having an input, a first output, a second output, and a third output, the input being coupled to the antenna to receive the audio signal of the incoming, the first output being coupled to the nonvolatile memory region to store the audio signal in the nonvolatile memory region if the incoming call is not picked up within a predetermined period of time, and
an audio decompressor having an output, a first input, a second input, and a third input, the output being coupled to the speaker, the first input being coupled to the third output of the demultiplexer, the second input being coupled to the second output of the demultiplexer, the third input being coupled to the nonvolatile memory region, the audio decompressor decompressing the audio signal of the incoming call received via one of the first and second inputs from the demultiplexer and routing via the

output the decompressed audio signal to the speaker if the incoming call is picked up within the predetermined period of time.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein while in a playback mode, in response to a request from a user, the audio decompressor subsequently retrieves via the third input the stored audio signal from the nonvolatile memory region and routes via the output the retrieved audio signal to the speaker to allow the user to listen to the retrieved audio signal, if the incoming call is not picked up within a predetermined period of time further comprising a speaker to provide screening of the incoming call.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the audio decompressor is to decompress an audio signal of a first incoming call using a first audio decompression algorithm while the first incoming call is being received, and to decompress an audio signal of a second incoming call using a second audio decompression algorithm after the second incoming call has been received.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the first and second audio decompression algorithms are to be implemented, at least in part, using a same software sequence, firmware, or hardware.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a software sequence, firmware, or hardware to enable the audio signal stored in the nonvolatile memory to be retrieved by calling the cell phone from a remote phone.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a software sequence, firmware, or hardware to authenticate the user to the cell phone before the audio signal stored in the nonvolatile memory is retrieved by the user.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~, ~~further comprising a circuit 2~~, wherein the demultiplexer is to direct via the second output of the demultiplexer the audio signal of the incoming call to both ~~an~~ the audio decompressor to decompress the audio signal and to the nonvolatile memory region to store the audio signal if the incoming call is not picked up and a screening function is active.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~, ~~further comprising a circuit 7~~, wherein the demultiplexer is to direct via the third output of the demultiplexer the audio signal of the incoming call to the audio decompressor to decompress the audio signal, and not to the nonvolatile memory region to store the audio signal, if the incoming call is picked up.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~, ~~further comprising a circuit 8~~, wherein the demultiplexer is to direct via the first output of the demultiplexer the audio signal of the incoming call to the nonvolatile memory region to store the audio signal, and not to the audio decompressor to decompress the audio signal, if the incoming call is not picked up and a screening function is inactive.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing a cell phone with an integrated answering machine, the cell phone having an antenna, a speaker, and a nonvolatile memory region; and

enabling a user of the cell phone to screen an incoming call, the cell phone including a codec to process the incoming call and the codec including a demultiplexer having an input, a first output, a second output, and a third output, the input being coupled to the antenna to receive the audio signal of the incoming, the first output being coupled to the nonvolatile memory region to store the audio signal in the nonvolatile memory region if the incoming call is not picked up within a predetermined period of time, and an audio decompressor having an output, a first input, a second input, and a third input, the output being coupled to the speaker, the first input being coupled to the third output of the demultiplexer, the second input being coupled to the second output of the demultiplexer, the third input being coupled to the nonvolatile memory region, the audio decompressor decompressing the audio signal of the incoming call received via one of the first and second inputs from the demultiplexer and routing via the output the decompressed audio signal to the speaker if the incoming call is picked up within the predetermined period of time.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein enabling the user to screen an incoming call includes providing the cell phone with an option to activate or inactivate a screening function.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising enabling the cell phone to record an audio signal of a second incoming call while a first incoming call is being received.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising enabling the user to retrieve messages from the cell phone by calling the cell phone from a remote phone.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising enabling the user to download messages from the cell phone to a computer system for storage, playback, or audio decompression.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a speaker;

an antenna; ~~and~~

~~a memory region including instructions that, if executed by the processor, cause the system to receive an incoming call via the antenna, answer the call with a prerecorded greeting, and store an audio signal of the incoming call in the memory region; and~~

a codec to process an audio signal of an incoming call, the codec including

a demultiplexer having an input, a first output, a second output, and a third

output, the input being coupled to the antenna to receive the audio

signal of the incoming, the first output being coupled to the memory

region to store the audio signal in the memory region if the incoming

call is not picked up within a predetermined period of time, and

an audio decompressor having an output, a first input, a second input, and a

third input, the output being coupled to the speaker, the first input being

coupled to the third output of the demultiplexer, the second input being

coupled to the second output of the demultiplexer, the third input being coupled to the memory region, the audio decompressor decompressing the audio signal of the incoming call received via one of the first and second inputs from the demultiplexer and routing via the output the decompressed audio signal to the speaker if the incoming call is picked up within the predetermined period of time.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a speaker and instructions that, if executed by the processor, cause the system to screen the incoming call via the speaker.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising instructions that, if executed by the processor, cause the system to screen the incoming call if it is determined that a screening function is active.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising instructions that, if executed by the processor, cause the system to perform a message retrieval by sending the audio signal stored in the memory region via the antenna.